

his expulsion from France in 1941. It continues to this day through the ERC's successor organization, the International Rescue Committee. It has, to its credit, over 56 years of unbroken service to refugees and victims of oppression.

With the end of World War II and the defeat of fascism, the IRC assisted hundreds of thousands of displaced persons in Europe to re-build their shattered lives. Many came to the United States and were helped by the IRC to resettle and to become self-sufficient citizens in their new country.

The Iron Curtain that fell across Europe after the war produced a whole new set of refugees—those fleeing Stalin's dictatorship in the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe that had fallen under communist domination, not least the wonderful country of Hungary. The IRC, following in the steps of Varian Fry, was there to rescue them in flight, including, of course, tens of thousands of Hungarians.

Since the fall of the Berlin wall, the IRC has been involved in every major refugee crisis up to this day—making it the largest non-sectarian refugee relief organization in the world. Rescue teams are now at work in Bosnia, in Rwanda, in Cambodia and in 20 more countries, bringing life-saving humanitarian aid, medical care, shelter and education to well over a million refugees. In addition, the IRC continues to resettle large numbers of political refugees coming to the United States. And, the IRC remains a strong voice advocating for refugees, their rights and their needs.

This, then is a powerful legacy of Varian Fry. His heroic exploits are the inspiration for the International Rescue Committee in its world-wide efforts to bring help, aid and comfort to the world's refugees. His light, which shone so dimly in the Hotel Splendide and on the rue Grignan, shines brightly today, relieving human suffering and providing refuge to so many who seek freedom and protection from a well-founded fear of persecution.

I thank you for being here today to pay tribute to a selfless hero whose rescue of endangered lives inspires so many of my colleagues at the International Rescue Committee. Each of us endeavors to honor in our work his resourcefulness, courage and fortitude.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD METZENBAUM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Howard Metzenbaum, former Senator from the State of Ohio. Howard Metzenbaum was a giant who strode across the political landscape of Ohio for five decades. Some called him a rabble-rouster with a fierce independent streak. The Washington Post called him "an uncompromising, indefatigable and often irascible champion of liberal causes." I always found him to be an inspiration, a breath of fresh air who was willing to do whatever necessary to defend the interests of working people.

Howard Metzenbaum had a remarkably varied career. After graduating from law school in 1941, he became a labor lawyer in Cleveland and then the very successful owner of a string of parking lots. He started one of the Nation's first car rental companies, now known as Avis.

In 1949, as a member of the Ohio Senate, he won passage of legislation regulating consumer credit. After several attempts, he won a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1976, starting an 18-year career that placed him at the forefront of some of the most important issues of our time. It was Senator Howard Metzenbaum who championed plant closing legislation and got the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification [WARN] Act passed over the President's veto. He was a vocal opponent of corporate welfare before such opposition became fashionable. When he retired in 1994, Democrats and Republicans alike hailed him as the conscience of the U.S. Senate.

It is a fitting tribute to Senator Howard Metzenbaum that the Federal Courthouse at Public Square and Superior in Cleveland bear his name. The courthouse is a symbol of justice, and Howard Metzenbaum built his career on fighting for justice, fairness, and dignity for all citizens. I commend this bill to my fellow Members of Congress and urge its passage.

MAX BARTIKOWSKY HONORED BY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 1997

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to pay tribute today to a businessman and community leader from my congressional district, Mr. Max Bartikowsky. Next month the Jewish Community Center will honor Max at a surprise brunch. I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

Max is the owner of one of Wilkes-Barre's finest retailers, Bartikowsky Jewelers. The store has been an institution in downtown Wilkes-Barre ever since Max's grandfather emigrated from Poland and founded the store 100 years ago. While other stores have fled for suburban shopping malls, it is a testament to Max's commitment to Wilkes-Barre that his store has remained as a cornerstone of downtown.

The business has always been an extension of the Bartikowsky family's commitment to civic involvement by being a key supporter of the United Way, Northeast Philharmonic, American Heart Association, Hospice St. John, the Diabetes Association, Children's Miracle Network, and the city of Wilkes-Barre fire and police departments. Max has built on and continued the family's tradition both personally and professionally.

Max's personal community activities also fill a long list. He is an active supporter of Wyoming Seminary, a prestigious local educational institution. Along with Wyoming Seminary, Max is also involved in supporting the Rose Brader Clinic where he was named person of the year in 1991. He has also been a strong supporter of Penn State University and has been active in the Knights of Saber, Wilkes-Barre Lions. His personal dedication to the Jewish Community Center is also well known.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with the members of the Jewish Community Center to recognize and pay tribute to an amazing and generous individual. I send my best wishes as the JCC honors one of its most distinguished and dedicated leaders.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, for those who are interested in passing legislation in Congress that will fix the broken campaign finance system, there appears to be good news on the horizon. Last week the U.S. Senate began debate on the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill.

In this House the future of campaign finance reform is not so clear. The leadership in the House has offered conflicting opinions on whether or not they will allow a debate on this issue.

Many Members have been pressuring the House leaders to schedule consideration of any one of the reform bills currently pending in Congress. I have been making a daily statement on the floor of the House demanding a vote on finance reform. It is my hope that these combined efforts, and the pressure being put on Members of Congress by the public, will force the leadership to reconsider their opposition to debate on a bill.

However, my greatest fear is not that we won't get a vote, but that we will get a campaign finance reform bill containing a poison pill that will doom the legislation.

The Republican leadership would like nothing better than to pass a campaign finance bill containing a poison pill that would force a veto by the President. That way the Republicans get political credit for passing a campaign finance reform bill while knowing full well that the bill will never become law.

This works if you are satisfied with the status quo, and many Members of Congress are satisfied with the current system. It got them elected, so why change it to give their opponents a chance to defeat them.

That approach may serve the self-interests of the Members of this House, but it would be an injustice to the people we represent. If we are going to actually see real reform, the next few days are crucial. I hope the leadership in the House of Representatives will see the wisdom of cleaning up the political process by passing meaningful campaign finance reform legislation.

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support educational freedom for the children of Washington, DC. By providing parents a choice in education, kids in the District of Columbia can be rescued from drug-infested, run down schools.

The fiscal year 1998 District of Columbia appropriations bill contains a provision to allow parents in Washington, DC, to choose schools for their children with the help of opportunity scholarships. Sadly, President Clinton has threatened to veto this legislation if opportunity scholarships are included in the bill.

Today, thousands of children in this city are literally being robbed of their futures because